



**Date:** January 21, 2005  
**To:** Gerald R. Miller, City Manager  
**From:** Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer  
**For:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**Subject:** Weekly Update Ending January 21, 2005

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The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending January 21, 2005 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

**MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS**

**Rainstorm Update: Financial Management**

In recognition of the extraordinary havoc wreaked upon Southern California by the recent series of severe rainstorms, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has declared seven counties to be in a "state of emergency," including Los Angeles County. The Governor's declaration is a public acknowledgement that the scope of repairs required in the aftermath of the storms is beyond the normal expected capabilities of local jurisdictions. The Governor's directive will guarantee some measure of direct financial reimbursement to jurisdictions such as the City of Long Beach. Although the precise mechanism has not yet been outlined, an application process will be implemented to identify reimbursable costs. Residents and businesses in Long Beach may also receive assistance including low interest loans, grants, or tax relief.

Casey Chel, Disaster Management Officer, has been working with various City departments to identify the magnitude of the damage inflicted upon the area by the storms. Initial input to Mr. Chel reveals damage estimates of approximately \$3 million in public sector losses and \$1 million in private sector losses in the City, although the latter figure is more difficult to pinpoint.

At the City Council meeting of January 18, the following specific damage was identified by officials in the Public Works department:

- 126 downed trees on City streets exclusive of parks
- 3,000 potholes
- \$100,000 in damage to trees
- \$250,000 in damage to City streets
- \$55,000 in overtime costs for repair work
- \$4,000 in daily charges by contractors fixing potholes

**MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)**

**Rainstorm Update:**

**Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau**

All large piles of storm debris have been cleared from the Peninsula area.

Piles on the east beach have been centralized to three locations.

Piles on the west beach have been centralized. The main focus has been to clear Junipero beach area for beach goers and to remove any material that may be in homeowners' direct view.

Queensway Bay staff continues to run the debris boats to clean Rainbow Harbor and hand dip the dock areas.

Currently there are three trucks hauling eighty plus tons of debris per day.

November Totals: 2,264.00 tons

December Totals: 1,319.18 tons

If work is continued at the current rate all debris should be removed before May.

**Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau**

Due to flooding on the El Dorado Nature Center trails were closed from January 8 - 16.

**Rainstorm Update: Health and Human Services**

The Water Quality Program conducted daily testing of local waters after a sewage spill into the Los Angeles River caused bacteria levels in beaches in the Long Beach area to rise above State standards. Beaches were closed for seven days and reopened when bacteria levels were reduced to meet State standards on January 18.

**City Manager, Human Dignity**

The Human Dignity Program, the Center for Ethical Leadership at California State, Long Beach and the Long Beach-based Global Diversity Institute offered a free preview of a professional certification program for cross-cultural and diversity trainers and consultants at CSULB on January 20.

**City Manager, Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force**

The Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force (Task Force) met on January 19. Highlights of the meeting include:

Chair Michael Gillette provided an overview of Task Force activities in 2004 and outlined upcoming events, including a Task Force leadership retreat scheduled for Saturday, February 5. Chair Gillette also talked about involving more youth on the Task Force.

City grants totaling more than \$1.1 million have been secured in recent months for vocational training. The task force hopes to recruit many of the teens and young adults from Police Beats 4, 5 and 7, areas of Central Long Beach identified as having high unemployment and school dropout rates, and persistent gang activity.

**MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)**

**City Manager, Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force**

The Task Force agreed to apply for the Title V Community Prevention Grant from the Board of Corrections. This grant is designed to support community/neighborhood-based projects that prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system. The available funds total \$1.9 million. The application deadline is March 21.

**Police**

Members of the command staff met with representatives of small businesses at a meeting Wednesday night to discuss a rash of burglaries since late October. Strategies have been developed to address the issue and to keep the community informed:

Resources will be strategically deployed throughout the city.

Community Relations will be developing a public information bulletin that will be sent to the council offices and newspapers. In addition, department employees will be distributing the bulletins door to door throughout the city.

Any commercial burglaries will be noted on the Chief's Daily Briefing.

The Department website will be updated as necessary to provide current information.

Division commanders will continue to liaison with surrounding agencies regarding similar incidents in their cities.

**Parks, Recreation and Marine and Fire**

On January 15, King Park hosted the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and Celebration. The Celebration took place at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park with live entertainment by the musical group Lakeside. An estimated 10,000 spectators enjoyed a variety of entertainment, games, food and family fun.

The Fire Department participated also. Fire Truck 1, Fire Engine 10, and the Antique Ahrens Fox Pumper, staffed with volunteers from the Fire Museum, were in the parade. A horse drawn antique steamer sponsored by the California State Firefighter's Association was featured.

**Public Works: Litter Abatement and Awareness**

Over 75 residents, community leaders and city staff attended a workshop on January 19 to develop goals and make recommendations toward the implementation of a Citywide Litter Abatement and Awareness Program. Small groups discussing potential educational programs, outreach opportunities and enforcement efforts followed an introductory discussion regarding the impact of litter on the community. The evening culminated with attendees recommending potential partners that could assist the City in implementing this program, as well as making personal commitments to support the effort.

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### **MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)**

#### **Public Works: Litter Abatement and Awareness**

A website, [www.litterfreeLB.com](http://www.litterfreeLB.com), has been established to post workshop results and to receive additional comments regarding the Litter Abatement and Awareness Program. It will also keep participants and residents updated on the progress of this effort.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS**

#### **Community Development, Redevelopment Bureau**

A meeting for property owners and business tenants in the North Village Center (Atlantic Ave, between 56th and 59th Streets), located within the North Long Beach Redevelopment Project Area, will be held at the Calvary Chapel of North Long Beach, 704 E. South Street, on **Tuesday, January 25 from 8:30 to 9:30 am**. The purpose is to present Redevelopment Agency plans for new public parking lot construction, facade improvements, streetscape enhancements and increased business assistance activities. For more information, please contact Aldo Schindler at 570-7742 or [Aldo\\_Schindler@longbeach.gov](mailto:Aldo_Schindler@longbeach.gov)

#### **Health and Human Services**

The Homeless Census 2005 will be conducted on **January 27**. Homeless services staff conducted orientation sessions for over 200 volunteers on January 18 and 19.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### **Fire**

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,184 emergency calls for service: 121 calls for fires of which 26 involved structures. It also responded to 734 emergency medical calls; of which 536 required paramedics.

#### **Police**

Citywide, police officers responded to 926 priority one calls for service, 1,850 priority two calls for service and 10,679 calls for service for a total of 13,455 calls for service.

Citywide, police officers made 358 arrests and conducted 79 field interviews.

The second of the two police recruit orientations was conducted this past weekend with a total of 304 applicants moving forward to the next level of the process.

### **NEIGHBORHOODS**

#### **Health and Human Services**

Staff delivered bioterrorism and emergency preparedness presentations at Wrigley Neighborhood Association on January 11 and at the North Long Beach Neighborhood Association and the Long Beach Coalition of Churches, Health Ambassadors on January 13. Additional presentations are scheduled for January 20 and 21 to other community groups

**NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)**

**Public Works, Long Beach Airport**

The Airport Tour Program has started a new year in full swing with six tours for approximately 250 people scheduled in January. Five groups are from the Long Beach Unified School District and private schools. The Arbor Mobile Village Homeowner Association toured the Airport on January 19 to learn more about the historical significance Long Beach Airport has in the aviation community.

Airport Public Affairs staff will be visiting Jefferson Middle School and Hudson Elementary School to participate in their "Career Day." Also, staff will be visiting the International Elementary School to participate in their "Teach for a Day" program this month.

**Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau**

The construction plans for 55th Way Park and Admiral Kidd Teen Center have been submitted to the Planning and Building, Fire, Water and Public Works Departments for construction permits. Construction specifications for 55<sup>th</sup> Way Park have been submitted to the City Attorney's Office for approval.

**Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau**

Construction continues at Rotary Centennial Park with weekend construction to make up for days lost to rain.

Construction for accessibility improvements is being completed at Whaley Park, with the installation of a lift for access to the stage. That is the last item on a project that included restroom, playground, walkway and parking lot modifications.

**Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau**

Universally Accessible Playground community meetings were held on January 19 at Houghton Park and on January 20 at Bixby Park. These meetings provide an opportunity to educate the public on the benefits of these playgrounds and it is also an opportunity for the public to make recommendations on potential future locations.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Community Development, Economic Development Bureau**

The City's Enterprise Zone Tax Incentive Program continues to benefit the local business community. For the period January 3 to January 14, 59 Enterprise Zone vouchers were issued to 11 companies. Each voucher represents the hiring of an economically disadvantaged person.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Public Works, Airport Bureau**

On January 14, a B-1B Lancer bomber landed at the Airport at approximately 11:30 a.m. The aircraft will be undergoing modifications at Boeing and will depart when modifications are completed, in May or June.

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**SPECIAL EVENTS (continued)**

**Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau**

On January 18, the Long Beach Youth Services NETWORK held its fifth annual Forum at St. Mary Medical Center's. One hundred and fifty members of youth-serving organizations, members of the Commission on Youth and Children, and various government and community dignitaries attended the event. Dr. Richard Lerner of Tufts University, who talked on strategies to develop the potential of youth, made the keynote address.

**Special Events and Filming Bureau**

Warner Brothers, with a cast and crew of 90, filmed "Cold Case" on January 20, at The Americana Restaurant.

**OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE**

**Public Works, Airport**

The Airport has experienced tremendous success in the Recycling Program since it started on September 20, 2004. For the first quarter of FY2004, Conservation Corps of Long Beach collected 1,181 tons of recyclable items from numerous collection bins located throughout the Airport.

**Human Resources**

On September 7, 2004, the City Council approved the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2005. Included in the budget was the elimination of approximately 200 positions in accordance with the Three-Year Financial Strategic Plan. The Department of Human Resources identified 34 impacted positions filled with City employees. On October 27, 2004, the City Manager requested an Order of Layoff and the Civil Service Commission approved the Order of Layoff on December 8, 2004. Of the original 34 impacted positions, all have either been placed in new positions or have been retained in their current classification. There will be no loss in pay for any of the transitional employees.

GRM:KP

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